



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



*For Immediate Release*

Judy Pedersen, PIO  
E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

October 5, 2007  
PR-107

### Park Authority to Open New Recreation Areas in Laurel Hill

The Fairfax County Park Authority will officially mark the opening of more than 153 acres of recreational areas, preserved open space and amenities at the southern end of the sprawling 1,200-acre Laurel Hill Park complex in Lorton, VA. This land, which came to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2002 under the Lorton Technical Corrections Act, passed by Congress in 1998, already includes \$18.5 million of site and park improvements including a championship 18-hole golf course and clubhouse, the Laurel Hill Greenway Trail which is a portion of the 41-mile Cross County Trail, and ball fields.

This is the initial phase of the transformation of the former D.C. Department of Corrections Lorton Correctional facility and represents an area that has not been accessible to the public for over 100 years. This area is commonly referred to as section G and H on Laurel Hill master planning documents and is now named the Central Green and Giles Run Meadow, respectively.

The Park Authority will hold ribbon cutting ceremonies on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. at Giles Run Meadow. The ceremony will take place one-half mile into the park from the newly constructed entrance sign located at 8400 Lorton Road. A parking lot at the top of the hill leads directly to the activities. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony and walking tours of the site will take place. Participants should wear comfortable shoes for a minimal half-mile tour or more robust two-mile loop hike.

The event will highlight the completion of a pedestrian and mountain biking trail; improvements to the Laurel Hill Greenway/ Cross County Trail; renovations/stabilization at the Barrett House; a new disc golf course; picnic areas; a small play area; a pond side trail and platform; installation of over 2000 feet of fencing and parking lot improvements; installation of interpretive signage, as well as improvements to the historic barrel bridge and invasive exotic plant removal.

The project team has been challenged by areas that required extensive clean up of everything from old utility lines to washing machines, loads of old license plates and removal of barbed wire. With more than 700 buildings originally onsite, and many of them slated for future reuse, great care continues to be needed to preserve and secure appropriate structures that contribute to the historic character of the site while removing those that detract. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

*Directions: Take I-95 S to exit 163 toward Lorton. Turn Right at Lorton Road. Go 0.5 mi and arrive at 8400 Lorton Rd on your right. Follow the road up the hill to the parking lot on the left.*

###

703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) • E-MAIL: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)



*Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.*